

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Project Title: Iowa Broadband PCC Initiative

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

The Iowa Broadband Public PCC Initiative is a statewide community-college led project to establish ~~57~~⁶³ Public Computer Centers to serve targeted areas of need in 54 counties. The centers will be located at community colleges, libraries, and community organizations with a focus on serving the state's neediest rural and urban communities. Six of the PCC's will be located in Iowa Career Access Points (ICAPs), a U.S. Department of Labor initiative that formally includes Faith-Based and Community Organizations as a part of the national workforce system. Instruction that will be provided at the public access centers will include digital literacy, employment skills training, Internet safety, and job placement. All 15 Iowa community colleges will operate public access PCC's. The colleges will also provide significant match that exceeds the 20 percent requirement.

The project satisfies all five of the program's statutory purposes as it provides access to underserved Iowans, improves access to consumers, provides broadband education, awareness, training and equipment, enhances the use of Broadband for Iowa Department of Public Safety/Iowa Crimes Against Children Task Force Internet safety education, creates and retains a minimum of 116 jobs, and will stimulate economic growth.

The compelling problem this program will resolve is Iowa's Broadband access, digital literacy, and computer-related workforce training gaps. This project will establish ~~57~~⁶³ new PCC's in 54 counties, with an emphasis on serving vulnerable populations in rural and urban areas. 2,112,818 people reside in the counties that will be served.

Of 13 counties designated by Connected Nation as having a significantly high need for Broadband, the project will serve 77% (10). Of the 33 high need counties listed, 70% (23) will be served. In total, 54 of the state's 99 counties will receive Broadband PCC's that will provide access, digital literacy instruction, and employment-related education.

This month, Iowa Workforce Development released a state analysis of need for BTOP PCC Intervention, based on economic data. Of the 26 counties identified as "need" counties, all (100%) will be served by this project. Each county will benefit from at least one PCC.

This project is unique as replicable component that will be developed exclusively for this project is an Internet Safety and Security Basics course that will be developed and provided by Des Moines Area Community College's Electronic Crime Institute. This valuable on-line instruction, developed in affiliation with the state Department of Public Safety's Iowa Crimes Against Children Task Force, will help prevent identity theft and digital crimes against children.

The "Iowa Broadband PCC Initiative" proposal aligns itself directly with several education and employment programs funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Federal funding of this proposal will support eight ARRA grants awarded from the U.S. Departments of Labor, Justice, and Health and Human Services, which funded the state's six Iowa Career Access Points.